

Office of the Attorney General State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 19, 1998

Ms. M. Patrice Benford Assistant City Attorney Criminal Law and Police Division City of Dallas Municipal Building Dallas, Texas 75201

OR98-2777

Dear Ms. Benford:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 119697.

The City of Dallas (the "city") received a request for certain crime statistics, including originating telephone numbers and addresses of 911 calls. You indicate that you intend to withhold the 911 information and argue that it is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. You have included a representative sample of the responsive information.¹

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. You claim that the originating telephone numbers and addresses on the 911 report are protected from required public disclosure by section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. We therefore assume that the emergency 911 district involved here was established in accordance with chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code, which authorizes the development of local emergency communications districts. Sections 772.118, 772.218 and 772.318 of the Health and Safety

¹In reaching our conclusion here, we assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

Code make confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 911 callers furnished by a service supplier. See Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). Section 772.118 applies to emergency communication districts for counties with a population over two million. Section 772.218 applies to emergency communication districts for counties with a population over 860,000. Section 772.318 applies to emergency communication districts for counties with a population over 20,000. Subchapter E, which applies to counties with populations over 1.5 million, does not contain a confidentiality provision regarding 911 telephone numbers and addresses. Health and Safety Code §§ 772.401, et seq. Thus, if the emergency communication district here is subject to section 772.118, 772.218 or 772.318, the originating telephone numbers and addresses on the CAD reports are excepted from public disclosure based on section 552.101 as information deemed confidential by statute and must be withheld.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

Michael Jay Burns

Assistant Attorney General Open Records Division

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MJB/ch

Ref: ID# 119697

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Bob Hurtte 6960 Santa Maria Lane Dallas, Texas 75214 (w/o enclosures)